

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-14, and 16-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1,2,4,5,10,11,14,16,17,18 were amended, claims 3 and 15 were cancelled, and claims 25-27 were added. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner feels that the word "simultaneously" as used in the claims is misdescriptive. The Examiner has interpreted the term "simultaneously" as meaning that multiple queries are sent from the client, one after the other. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to delete "simultaneously". Claim 24 was further rejected because the term "said modem" lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 24 has been amended to delete any reference to a modem.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 (Obviousness)

Claims 1-3 and 6-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,634), in view of Bhatia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,330, hereinafter "Bhatia"). Claims 13-15 and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst, in view of Poelev (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0014541). Claims 12 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broadhurst, in view of Bhatia, and further in view Poelev. These rejections are respectively traversed.

Broadhurst teaches a technique for performing a multitude of domain name searches simultaneously, transparent to the user, and then displaying the results of both the available and unavailable domain names on the client computer, thus eliminating the need for a user to perform individual searches. More specifically, as shown in FIGS. 6a-6c and discussed at col. 6, lines 44-67, in response to a domain name specialized search in all Asian and Pacific countries for the domain name "Mercedes", both the available and unavailable domain names are displayed. Broadhurst teaches that "If desired, a user may request to register a domain name as indicated by item 606 by selecting item 610." None of the available or unavailable domains names are eliminated, all are returned to the client computer. Rather, the user may select a domain name by clicking the "register now" button, which links the user to the HTML order form shown in FIG. 6c for the specified domain. The user may repeat this selection process for as many of the available domain names as the

user wishes. Furthermore, since the domain names of interest are "available" there is presumably no content associated with those addresses, and thus Broadhurst does not teach returning a single address so that the client can send a request for content to that address. Broadhurst teaches displaying all the domain names, available and unavailable, that fit a domain name search criteria and then enabling the user to register one or more of the available domain names.

Furthermore, Broadhurst does not teach nor is it obvious in view of Bhatia to use a modem to send the domain name query to a plurality of DNS servers. In Broadhurst, the user uses the client computer to submit a query to a query server 104, which performs these queries on the DNS servers 108. (Col. 3, 48-52). The query server includes a query engine 222 that includes query software 224 that submits search requests to various DNS servers 108 located throughout the network. It is arguably obvious that Broadhurst would use a modem to transmit the query from the client computer to the query server, but in view of Broadhurst's explicit teachings it is clearly not taught nor suggested to use the modem to transmit the query to the plurality of DNS servers. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 as amended under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are overcome.

In rejecting claim 6, the Examiner cites to Fig. 5A as support for performing a search using the host name query and Fig. 6A for transmitting an address of where results of said search can be viewed and for determining that a host has not been located by the DNS servers, i.e. "MERCEDES.net.au". To reiterate, Broadhurst conducts a search for "MERCEDES" and receives back the addresses of all the domain names that match the search criteria and indicates whether each domain name is registered or available. By comparison, claim 6 teaches that if the initial transmission of the host name query from the modem to a plurality of DNS servers returns no host, then a search is performed using the host name query and an address of where the search results are located is forwarded to the client. To illustrate using a variation of the Broadhurst example, if a host name query of either "www.MERCEDES.com" or simply "MERCEDES" were transmitted to a plurality of DNS servers and a host was not found then a search would be performed with that query. The results of such a search could be a list of websites such as www.luxurycars.com, www.europeanautos.com.uk, www.caranddriverreview.com.us and so forth that contain the search string. The secondary search in claim 6 only occurs if the primary search for the DNS server is not successful. The "results address" returned to the client computer allows the client to access the webpage listing all of the websites. Broadhurst would never conduct such a secondary search because his algorithm is directed solely at ascertaining the availability of specific

domain names and not at identifying websites that have content related to the domain name query. Therefore, the rejection of claims 6-9 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

III. New Claims

New claims 25 through 27 have been added that distinctly point out novel features of the invention.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

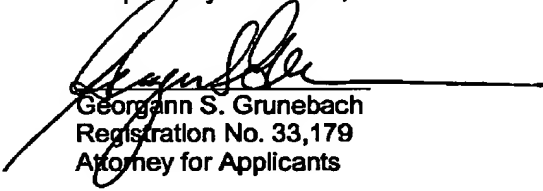
Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 were not rejected over cited art. Accordingly, each has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of their parent and any intervening claims and to delete reference to "simultaneously". These claims are now in condition for allowance.

V. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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